

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please substitute the following paragraph for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

Embodiments of the present invention are directed toward nesting roles in a directory system. A nested role is a container of other roles. To nest, the DNs corresponding to the roles are added or encapsulated to form a nested role. A “nested” role can be configured to provide additional level of abstraction by nesting different role types – filtered, managed, enumerated or nested – whereby an entry can be a member of any one of the roles in the nesting. Nested roles allow a user to create roles that contain other roles. A nested role can be created with no members nested. Alternatively, a nested role may contain one or more members. The nesting or encapsulation is performed if (1) the target entry is within the scope of the role; and/or (2) target entry is within the scope of the role that causes the target entry to possess the nested role.